

Mayo Clinic Minute: More people are developing celiac disease

Video	Audio
	If you think you're hearing more about people with celiac disease, you are correct.
	"There is good evidence that celiac disease is truly more common. It's not just that we're better at finding it or more aware of it."
	While it's not exactly clear why more people around the world are developing the disease, which is an immune reaction to eating gluten, Dr. Joseph Murray explains some possible factors.
Joseph Murray, M.D. Gastroenterology Mayo Clinic	"Wheat itself probably hasn't changed very much in the last hundred years. What we do with the wheat has changed. How we make our bread has changed. The amount of pizza we're eating has gone up dramatically. The amount of fast food that we eat, of course, has increased dramatically."
	He says there also may be a dose effect of gluten in those who are at a genetic risk.
	"The most recent work suggests that very young children who are at genetic risk for celiac disease, if they got more gluten in childhood, they're more likely to develop celiac disease."
	If untreated, celiac disease can cause anemia, infertility, bone weakening, and even severe complications such as cancer.
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm DeeDee Stiepan.